

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

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13TH ADVON UDORN

USSAG NKP

DIA WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU

AMCONSUL CHIANGMAI

AMCONSUL UDORN

UNCLAS BANGKOK 4951

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR MARR, TH. CB. EINV

SUBJECT: KHUKRIT ON THE AIRLIFT OF SUPPLIES TO CAMBODIA

REF: BANGKOK 4645

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT PRAMOT HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE MARCH
24. FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL USIS TRANSLATION OF HIS RE-
MARKS ON THE AIRLIFT OF SUPPLIES TO CAMBODIA.

REPORTER: IN REGARD TO THE TRANSPORTATION OF WEAPONS
THROUGH THAILAND, DID'T YOU SAY THAT YOU FORBID IT UNDER
ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, IN A NEWS CONFERENCE YOU GAVE LAST WEEK
AFTER YOUR APPOINTMENT AS PRIME MINISTER...

KHUKRIT: WE DON NOT SUPPORT THE TRANSPORTATION OF WEAPONS
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AT ALL, BUT IT IS STILL NECESSARY FOR AIRLIFTS TO BE CONTI-

NUED FOR TRANSPORTATION OF RICE, ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES AND FOODSTUFFS, FOR THE SAKE OF HUMANITY. WE SUPPORT THAT. SHOULD THE SITUATION BECOME MORE SERIOUS, SUCH AS STARVATION BEING MORE SERIOUS, AND SUPPOSE THE LON NOL GOVERNMENT IS DEFEATED BUT IT IS STILL NECESSARY TO GIVE AID FOR THE SAKE OF HUMANITY, OBSTACLES MIGHT BE FACED IF THAILAND HAD NO RELATIONS OF ANY KIND WITH CAMBODIA YET, THEREFOR WE WOULD SUPPORT THE TRANSPORTATION OF VARIOUS ESSENTIAL FOODSTUFFS, AND COMMUNITIES TO CAMBODIA FOR THE SAKE OF HUMANITY, THROUGH PUBLIC CHARITY OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, SUCH AS THROUGH THE RED CROSS, ETC.

REPORTER: HAS THE THAI GOVERNMENT DRAFTED MEASURES TO CHECK UP ON AND INSPECT COMMODITIES AND FOODSTUFFS TRANSPORTED, IN ORDER TO BE CERTAIN THAT THEY ARE REALLY FOR HUMANITY. THAT NO WEAPONS OR STRATEGIC MATERIEL OF ANY KIND ARE CONCEALED AMONG THOSE ESSENTIAL GOODS?

KHUKRIT: IT IS THE DUTY OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO HOLD NEGOTIATIONS, AND I UNDERSTAND THAT THEY HAVE BEEN HELD ALREADY.

REPORTER: I HAVE HEARD THAT REPORTERS HAVE GONE AND CHECKED UP..THAT THEY HAVE GONE AND SEEN THAT THERE IS AN AREA IN U TAPAO IN WHICH WEAPONS ARE STORED, WEAPONS STORED IN THAILAND TEMPORARILY. NEWSMEN SAY THAT THOSE WEAPONS ARE IN SUCH A LARGE NUMBER THAT THEY COULD BE USED FOR FIGHTING FOR AS LONG AS 5 YEARS. BUT NOW THEY MIGHT BE SUFFICIENT FOR 3 YEARS ONLY.

KHUKRIT: I DON'T BELIEVE THAT. MY REASON IS THAT WHEREVER THERE ARE MILITARY FORCES, THERE MUST BE WEAPONS. WE ARE NOT ABLE TO KNOW WHAT USE THEY ARE MAKING OF THOSE WEAPONS. BUT WE DO NOT SUPPORT THE GIVING OF AID IN THE FORM OF ARMAMENTS TO ANY SIDE OUTSIDE OUR COUNTRY AT PRESENT. AT THE SAME TIME WE SUPPORT AND ARE READY TO SUPPORT AID FOR THE SAKE OF HUMANITY. THIS IS ALL I CAN SAY. SHOULD ANY QUESTIONS BE PUT TO ME, ASKING FOR DETAILS. IT IS NOT MY DUTY TO GO AND CHECK UP ON THEM.

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REPORTER: IN REGARD TO WEAPONS WHICH ARE LEFT OVER, BIRD AIR, WHICH IS A COMPANY REGISTERED IN CAMBODIA, SAYS IT WILL COME TO TRANSPORT THE WEAPONS IT BROUGHT AND STORED HERE. WILL WE ALLOW IT TO CONTINUE CARRYING ON THIS ACTIVITY?

KHUKRIT: I HAVE NO INFORMATION AT ALL IN THE MATTER YET. I HAVEN'T RECEIVED ANY REPORT ON IT AT ALL.

REPORTER: IT SAYS THAT IT IS REGISTERED UP TO JUNE
30, AND IN THE MEANTIME IT IS STILL....

KHUKRIT: I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING, OR ANY DETAILS AT ALL
IN THE MATTER YET. I CAN ONLY INFORM YOU OF THE
PRINCIPLE WE HAVE MADE A DECISION ON. THAT PRINCIPLE
IS THAT WE DO NOT SUPPORT THE TRANSPORTATION OF WEAPONS.
BUT IN REGARD TO THE STAGE OF PUTTING IT IN PRACTICE, AND
IN REGARD TO DETAILS, WE MUST CONTINUE STUDYING THEM.

REPORTER: HAVE YOU ISSUED AN ORDER TO THE MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS?

KHUKRIT: THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, OR IN
OTHER WORDS, THE FOREIGN MINISTER WAS PRESENT WHEN WE
DETERMINED THIS PRINCIPLE AND HE TOOK PART IN DETERMINING IT ALSO.
MASTERS

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